

PRESS RELEASE  
TUES 9 SEP 2025

## CHAMBER MUSIC STRIKES A CHORD IN NEW LOCATIONS ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST THIS AUTUMN



- Music lovers to enjoy live concerts in an intimate setting, as **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's 'BSO On Your Doorstep' series** returns this autumn.
- Residents in **Blandford, Lyndhurst, Poole and Portsmouth** will experience the series for the first time – and music returns to **Axminster, Bodmin, Bournemouth, Honiton, Ryde, Sturminster Newton, Winfrith and Yeovil**, in partnership with **Artsreach, Dorset, and Villages in Action, Devon** and **Octagon Theatre, Yeovil**.
- The 'BSO On Your Doorstep' series delivers music directly into the heart of communities, with exciting and accessible programmes for all ages. Tickets from £5.

**People in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Somerset are set to experience live chamber music, as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's musicians tour intimate venues throughout the South West this autumn.**

The Orchestra's 'BSO On Your Doorstep' series begins at **St Paul's Parish Church, Honiton** [20 Sep], **St Michael's & All Angels, Lyndhurst** [Sat 11 Oct], **St Peter's Parish Church, Bournemouth** [14 Nov] and **The Exchange, Sturminster Newton** [20 Nov]. It continues at **St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth** [29 Nov], **St James' Parish Church, Poole** [30 Nov], **The Minster, Axminster** [4 Dec], **Blandford Parish Church, Blandford** [16 Dec].

In the New Year, the series visits **St Petroc's Church**, Bodmin [17 Jan], **All Saints Church**, Ryde [20 Feb] and **Westlands**, Yeovil [21 Feb].

The series includes four programmes celebrating the intimacy and musical conversation of chamber music – and each performance is presented by the BSO's musicians:

**'Serenades and Starbursts'** — presented by a 19-piece BSO string ensemble — features music from Tchaikovsky and American composer Jessie Montgomery.

The BSO's brass octet presents **'Winter Fanfare'** which trumpets a warm welcome to the colder months with a selection of cosy midwinter warmers.

**'Musical Families'** features a 12-piece string ensemble, which unravels the invisible strings entwining twentieth and twenty-first century music from Gershwin to Coleridge-Taylor.

**'Curious Creatures'** has been produced specifically for young families, and features music from Mancini to *Moana* and Britten to Bjork

**Head of BSO Participate, Lucy Warren** said *"We're over the moon to be sharing our 'BSO On Your Doorstep' programmes with new audiences across the South West this autumn and winter, as well as returning to some of our much-loved venues. Music has the power to unite and inspire like nothing else, and we can't wait to connect with audiences of all ages in their local venues to create memorable shared experiences for all."*

Across the year, the full BSO performs 106 symphonic performances in 24 venues, plus dozens more chamber-scale Cake Concerts and 'BSO On Your Doorstep' events reaching into towns and villages. The Orchestra's livestreamed Digital Concert series enters its sixth year, with 19 main season performances broadcast live from Lighthouse, Poole and available to watch online for 30 days.

**See [bsolive.com](https://bsolive.com) for details of all upcoming 'BSO On Your Doorstep' events.**

**[ENDS]**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**For more information please contact:**

**Heidi O'Neill** | [honeill@bsorchestra.co.uk](mailto:honeill@bsorchestra.co.uk) | 07858 365036 | or **Claire Rawles** | [crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk](mailto:crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk) | 07860 776646

1. High-resolution images available [here](#)
  - a) Players of the BSO © BSO
  - b) © BSO
  - c) © BSO
  - d) Head of BSO Participate, Lucy Warren © BSO
2. Concert listings:

**Sat 20 Sep 2025 (St Paul's Parish Church, Honiton)**  
*Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble

**Sat 11 Oct 2025 (St Michaels and All Angels, Lyndhurst)**  
*Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble

**Fri 14 Nov 2025 (St Peters Parish Church, Bournemouth)**

*Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble

**Thurs 20 Nov 2025 (The Exchange, Sturminster Newton)**

*Musical Families* with 12-string ensemble

**Sat 29 Nov 2025 (St Mary's Church, Portsea, Portsmouth)**

*Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble

**Sun 30 Nov 2025 (St James' Parish Church, Poole)**

*Winter Fanfare* with brass octet

**Thurs 4 Dec 2025 (The Minster, Axminster)**

*Winter Fanfare* with brass octet

**Tues 16 Dec 2025 (Blandford Parish Church)**

*Winter Fanfare* with brass octet

**Wed 17 Dec 2025 (St Christopher's Church, Winfrith)**

*Winter Fanfare* with brass octet

**Fri 16 Jan 2026 (Wimborne Minster)**

*Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble

**Sat 17 Jan 2026 (St Petroc's Church, Bodmin)**

Selection of chamber music with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ensemble

**Fri 20 Feb 2026 (All Saints Church, Ryde)**

*Musical Families* with 12-string ensemble or *Serenades and Starbursts* with 19-string ensemble TBC

**Sat 21 Feb 2026 (Westlands Entertainment Centre, Yeovil)**

Curious Creatures with 14-mixed ensemble

### 3. **ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Chief Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | Artist-in-Residence — Roderick Williams OBE**

**Principal Guest Conductor — Chloé Van Soeterstède | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill MBE**

**Conductor Laureate & Artistic Director, Voices from the East – Kirill Karabits OBE**

**Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton**

**Calleva Assistant Conductor – Enyi Okpara**

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is known for championing the role of culture in people's lives. Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the Orchestra is resident in Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Yeovil, and performs in towns and villages across the region. A leading arts charity, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.

The Daily Telegraph described Mark Wigglesworth's opening performance as Chief Conductor, in 2024, as "*a fine, fierce debut*". Celebrated globally for his outstanding musicianship, extraordinary interpretations, and breadth of repertoire, Wigglesworth's first season has magnified the BSO's reputation for the highest quality music-making. The Orchestra boasts an enviable list of named conductors, including Principal Guest Conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède, Marin Alsop, David Hill MBE, Kirill Karabits, and Andrew Litton.

In 2025/26, the BSO welcomes baritone **Roderick Williams OBE** as Artist-in-Residence: Williams performs five times across the season and co-creates an interactive massed performance, uniting thousands of children across

the South West. The Orchestra also introduces **Dani Howard** as its Celebrated Composer, a series that shines a spotlight on new British music. The BSO shares seven performances of Howard's music, including the UK premiere of her *Saxophone Concerto*, with **Jess Gillam**. Further highlights of the season include debut performances from organist **Anna Lapwood**, cellist **Hugo Svedberg**, guitarist **Plínio Fernandes**, viola player **Timothy Ridout**, and more. The Orchestra's celebrated **Digital Concert series** continues into its sixth year, with 18 live performances broadcast globally from Poole.

The Orchestra is celebrated for its pioneering community-based **BSO Participate** work, spanning partnerships with health and care providers to inclusive events in schools and with music education hubs. In the 2025/26 season, highlights include the expansion of its creative health programme with **Dorset County Hospital** and **Arts in Hospital** into further **Dorset HealthCare** sites, and an extension of its support for **Wellbeing Orchestras** supporting a range of needs across the region from Bodmin, Boscombe and Bristol to Chard and Wincanton.

Following international attention for igniting change, **BSO Resound** — the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra, and winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award — continues to challenge perceptions. The group unites with Enyi Okpara and alumni of the **National Open Youth Orchestra** to share its live music in both SEND and mainstream schools in 2025/26.

A National Portfolio of Arts Council England, the BSO is a registered charity and relies on generous philanthropic support from individual donors, gifts in wills, corporate partners, and charitable trusts and foundations. In 2024, the Orchestra was delighted to receive its largest ever funding pledge from a charitable trust: a grant award of £300,000 over three years (2025-27) from the **Garfield Weston Foundation** towards BSO Participate.

[bsolive.com](https://bsolive.com)

#### 4. **ABOUT ARTSREACH**

Artsreach is a registered charity which aims to make a positive difference to the lives of people living in rural Dorset, addressing rural and social isolation; developing skills and supporting health and wellbeing by providing the opportunity to participate in and engage with cultural activity in the heart of rural communities.

Artsreach builds upon existing resources and facilities to create a stimulating and challenging environment in which individuals, communities and performers can develop their creative potential.

Our performance programme runs through a large network of volunteer promoting groups and together we organise over 140 events every year, including live performances and creative workshops. We are the only countywide arts organisation offering local people the chance to deliver a programme of live performance in their own community; many of these communities would have no professional live performance without this unique model.

Artsreach is a registered charity, and is supported by Dorset Council, and Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

[artsreach.co.uk](https://artsreach.co.uk)

#### 5. **ABOUT VILLAGES IN ACTION**

Villages in Action was established in 2001 to bring live performance, arts and cultural events to rural communities across Devon. For over two decades we've worked alongside communities to grow opportunities for Devon's towns and villages to host a whole range of excellent creative work – across dance, theatre, music, circus, spoken word, poetry, visual arts and more.

A hallmark of rural touring is the hospitality and collaboration between community and visiting artists that happens in villages across the UK. Artists share time and experiences with local residents - friendships are made, performances are hosted in informal and unlikely spaces, rural communities get to see excellent work on their doorsteps.

Since 2021, we have embarked on a new journey – to shift the way we think about rural touring in Devon. With our network of promoters and co-curators, we are reimagining the way communities create and welcome in new work and the people who make it.

Through our [Agri]Culture model, we aim to strengthen the voice of our towns and villages in both hosting and creating work that reflects our changing communities and the wider world.

[villagesinaction.co.uk](http://villagesinaction.co.uk)

## **6. ABOUT WESTLANDS ENTERTAINMENT VENUE, YEOVIL**

Westlands Entertainment Venue is Somerset's premier entertainment venue and is the sister venue to the Octagon Theatre, with both venues situated in Yeovil. Westlands is a multi-purpose venue that can adapt the seating layout to suit the events taking place and has a fully operational Café Bar and restaurant.

The Octagon Theatre became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) and being awarded an investment of £760,000 to support arts and cultural activities in Somerset from 2023-2026. The NPO investment supports our Arts Engagement & Outreach team to develop and deliver programmes and activities that benefit health and wellbeing, enrich learning and education in and outside school and inspire and celebrate talent, creating work that will support local artists and tell "local stories". Our work seeks to improve inclusion and remove barriers, whatever they may be, so that everyone is able to enjoy and benefit from the creative arts. Whilst the Octagon Theatre is closed, the venue and team deliver all Arts Engagement & Outreach activities from Westlands Entertainment Venue.

[westlandsyeovil.co.uk](http://westlandsyeovil.co.uk)